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S.166

Introduced by Senators Hardy, Pearson, MacDonald and Starr

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Utilities; construction; worksite cleanup; rules; consumer protection

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the Public Utility Commission to revise its rules to include enhanced consumer protection provisions related to the cleanup of utility construction sites.

An act relating to utility construction worksites and consumer protection

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. SITE CLEANUP; PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION RULES

(a) The Public Utility Commission shall amend Rule 3.500 to ensure that all construction contracts contain terms and conditions specifying standards and responsibility for worksite cleanup. Unless a contract specifies otherwise, the utility is liable for all accidents, environmental cleanup, damages, or injuries to any person or property resulting from the construction, maintenance, repair, operation, or use of a utility's facilities.

(b) A violation of the Commission's worksite cleanup rules adopted pursuant to this section, or of any contract provision applicable to

1     responsibility and liability for worksite cleanup, that results in harm or injury  
2     to any person or property constitutes an unfair act or practice in commerce  
3     under 9 V.S.A. § 2453.

4     Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

5     This act shall take effect on passage.